INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT		
SUBJECT	The 1 Tank Regiment in Gorna Banya, Sofia Obshtina	DATE DISTR.	31 August	1955
	Gorna Banya, Soria Obshtina	NO. OF PAGES	2	
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- 1. Two battalions of the 1 Tank Regiment are quartered in the old and new barracks in Gorna Banya on Severin Nedev Street. The third battalion is stationed in barracks opposite the Borisova Gradina (Boris Garden) in Sofia. Each of the three battalions of the regiment are divided into three batteries. Each battery has four platoons, and each platoon has four T-34 Soviet-made tanks. The battalion which is quartered opposite the Borisova Gradina has Stalin-type armored vehicles.
 - 2. Officers of the regiment are as follows:
 - a. Zdenko Matrev, the regimental commander;
 - b. Major Aleksandrov Stoynov, political officer;
 - c. Captain Angel Fedorov Uzov, regimental adjutant;
 - d. Major Feodor Bonev, ordnance officer;
 - e. Major Kotovski (fnu), signal officer;
 - f. Major Kiro Popetov, commander of the 2 Battalion;
 - g. Major Kolo Bonev, commander of the 3 Battalion;
 - a. Captain Ivan Bolyanov, commander of the 5 Battery in the 2 Battalion; and
 - i. 1st Lieutenant Vesko Stichenov, battery commander.
 - 3. Each battery has a commanding officer who is a Captain or a lst Lieutenant, a deputy commanding officer who is a lst Lieutenant or a 2nd Lieutenant, a political officer who is a Lieutenant, four platoon leaders who are either officers or noncommissioned officers, four deputy platoon leaders who are noncommissioned officers, one battery office chief who is a non-commissioned officer, four orderlies, and two clerks.
 - 4. Each battery consists of 220 men. Each tank platoon has four sections, and each section has one tank. A tank includes a tank leader, who is at the same time the section leader (usually a noncommissioned officer); a deputy tank leader, who is in charge of the machine gun; two gunners; and one radioman. Each section has three riflemen who are in charge of guarding the tank. While the tank is moving, the three riflemen sit in the back of the tank and in combat they hide behind the tank.

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- 5. The troops use 7.62-mm. rifles of Soviet make. Some troops have 7.62-mm. Soviet submachine guns with a magazine on top. Officers and noncommissioned officers are armed with 7.62-mm. Soviet pistols. Two of the riflemen who guard a tank have submachine guns, while the third man has a Degtyarev automatic telescope (rifle?), as well as six egg-shaped Bulgarian hand grenades. A case of hand grenades for the riflemen is placed in each tank.
- 6. Tank troops receive infantry, tank, engine, weapons, and radio training. After the basic infantry training, troops are trained either as tank leaders, gunners, or radiomen. No matter what his specialty, each soldier receives training in all of the above three fields. The riflemen guarding a tank are selected after basic training on the basis of their shooting ability. The tank unit trains in the fields along the Iskur River and at a drill ground nearby. Once a week the battalion goes fully armed on bivouac for the whole day, using all the battalion tanks.
- 7. The regiment is not an independent unit. It participates once a year in a 3-month maneuver of the 1 Army in Sofia. The purpose of this regiment up to this point was to counter a Yugoslav attack. It is an elite unit and takes part in state holidays.
- 8. The troops wear cloth uniforms with dark blue overalls. Officers wear training uniforms and worsted dress uniforms.
- Troops receive bread and coffee with milk for breakfast; soup, vegetables, and 250 grams of meat for lunch; and vegetables and 250 grams of meat for supper.
- 10. Political training twice a week includes political indoctrination, lectures, motion picture yiewing on political subjects, and discussions.

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